



Fostering Safer Communities



# BONYTHON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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## From the Area Coordinator

At last winter is being overtaken by the promise of warmer weather and a change in scenery. After traveling with my husband through northern NSW and Queensland this winter to escape the cold for a short time, it was refreshing to arrive back in our hometown ready for spring. We both commented how lucky we are to have a variety of seasons in Canberra, something that the northern parts of our country doesn't get to experience. On a negative note however, while we enjoy the colors and changes that spring creates, summer this year is predicted to be an extreme. Please check out the ACT emergency Services web site and make sure that you are bush fire ready. **PREPARE - ACT - SURVIVE** for you, your family and your property.

The guest speaker this month will talk about U3A –University of the Third Age ... or for those over 50. This may be the ideal time in your life to learn something new, rediscover old skills or keep your mind active and meet new friends. I was amazed at the wide range of courses on offer – over 300 each year! There are no requirements for membership, no previous qualifications required and no degrees awarded simply the love of wanting to learn and enriching your life.

September is the month that ACT Neighbourhood Watch promotes encouragement to every resident to take responsibility for his or her safety and security. Have a look around your home – do you think it would be an easy target for burglars? Are you mindful of your surroundings when out and about? Are you aware of the risks online? Check out the *DIY Security and Safety Tips* in this newsletter for simple ideas on how you can increase protection of things that matter to you.

Hope to see you at the next meeting or around the neighbourhood.

*Carol*

## Secure September

**ACT Neighbourhood Watch has defined SEPTEMBER as the month to encourage all residents to take action on securing their property and protecting themselves.**

The key message of Secure September is that everyone should accept responsibility for crime prevention – it is not just a matter for law enforcement agencies. With more people adopting simple safety measures around their home, their property and themselves, this should assist in reducing crime.

- Don't wait until after you have a burglary to look at how easily you can secure your home.
- Don't wait until your computer has been compromised to change passwords.
- Don't wait until your car gets broken into to remove valuables from sight.
- Don't wait until you get scared walking home in the dark to think about personal safety.



See further in this newsletter for tips on how you can take simple action to improve security of your property and increase your personal safety.

Note: ACT Homesafe conducts security assessments on ACT residents homes. Priority is given to those who are vulnerable and at risk. Contact **6103 9084** - Home Safety Program

## Independent Tuggeranong

Proudly supporting the Bonython Neighbourhood Watch program, promoting security, safety and crime prevention in the community.

Jacob Stanton is your trusted Bonython specialist. Call him for expert advice and service for all your real estate sales and property management needs.

**independent**

Jacob Stanton

0499 999 734 | 02 6209 7733

[jst@independent.com.au](mailto:jst@independent.com.au)





## CRIME STATS, ACTIVITY and PREVENTION

During the winter period there appears to be an increase in the number of crime stats in Bonython that begs the probability of one of two answers

1. There is more crime in the suburb that we all need to be more active about in protecting ourselves and our property?
2. More crime is being reported?

While Bonython fares well against other areas it is important that as community we all work toward a crime prevention approach to ensure that our suburb remains a safe place to live, work and raise a family.

Reporting of crime is a extremely effective method of assisting police to be aware of and to take action against crime. Your information may be the missing link that police need to solve and investigation.



Neighbourhood Watch is a long-standing community based program aimed at encouraging neighbours to work together to reduce crime and make their communities safer. Join Neighbourhood Watch and help make Bonython safe and secure. [www.achtnhw.com.au](http://www.achtnhw.com.au) - membership.

## VIGILANCE WHEN BUYING OR SELLING GOODS ONLINE

ACT Policing would like to remind the Canberra community to be vigilant when buying or selling valuable goods, particularly via online marketplaces. Scammers can pose as both sellers and buyers.

Police are aware of a number of recent instances of theft from people buying and selling goods via online classifieds.

Below are some practical steps you can take to ensure your personal safety as well as the security of your property when engaging in these transactions:



- Choose a well-lit public area that you are far the goods, preferably somewhere CCTV is available;
- Where possible, avoid meeting at your own home. Arrange to meet at a coffee shop, shopping center or a police station
- Avoid meeting in vulnerable areas, such as dark car parks, playing fields, and the other person's home;
- Inspect goods before purchasing where possible;
- Do not publicise your home address on the advertisement; and
- Take a friend or family member with you if possible.

It's also important to have an exit strategy if a meeting doesn't go as planned - identify an exit route, and ensure you have access to a telephone to contact police if necessary.

Anyone who has been a victim of this type of incident, or who has information about recent incidents, is urged to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, or via the [Crime Stoppers ACT website](http://www.crimestoppers.act.gov.au). Information can be provided anonymously.

More information [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au) - buying-or-selling/classified-scams

## CRIME STATS

### MAY

HELPMANN	Assault causing GBH
HELPMANN	Assault causing ABH
TENISON-WOODS	Assault other
BARR SMITH	Motor vehicle theft
ALFORD	Other theft
ESAU	Other theft
NOARLUNGA	Other property damage
KNEEBONE	Other property damage

### JUNE

ESAU	Assault causing GBH
NOARLUNGA	Assault other
BARR SMITH	Burglary dwellings
HINGSTON	Burglary dwellings
ESAU	Burglary dwellings
REAY	Burglary dwellings
KNEEBONE	Burglary dwellings
KNEEBONE	Burglary dwellings
BARR SMITH	Motor vehicle theft
TENISON-WOODS	Other theft
HELEN MAYO	Other theft
MARQUET	Other theft
HELPMANN	Other property damage

### JULY

REAY	Assault other
HURTLE	Assault other
BARR SMITH	Burglary dwellings
TENISON-WOODS	Motor vehicle theft
HELEN MAYO	Bicycle theft
KNEEBONE	Other theft
HELEN MAYO	Other theft
BARDOLPH	Arson
BARDOLPH	Arson
DERRINGTON	Other property damage
DERRINGTON	Other property damage
DERRINGTON	Other property damage
DON DUNSTAN	Other property damage
TENISON-WOODS	Other property damage
BARR SMITH	Other property damage

### AUGUST

TENISON-WOODS	Assault other
BARDOLPH	Burglary dwellings
COOMBE	Motor vehicle theft
TENISON-WOODS	Theft of Vehicle Number Plates
TENISON-WOODS	Theft of Vehicle Number Plates
NAMBIR	Theft of Vehicle Number Plates
BARR SMITH	Theft of Vehicle Number Plates
TENISON-WOODS	Other theft
HELPMANN	Other property damage

## ACT Policing - Twitter



ACT Policing has several Twitter accounts with varying purposes; follow the feed that's best for you, or all of them to ensure you don't miss a thing.

- [@ACTPolicing](https://twitter.com/ACTPolicing) is ACT Policing's main Twitter account for distribution of the latest emergency information and news
- [@ACTPol\\_Traffic](https://twitter.com/ACTPol_Traffic) has the latest traffic information and road closures around Canberra
- [@CPOACT](https://twitter.com/CPOACT) lets you hear directly from the Chief Police Officer for the ACT, Rudi Lammers
- [@ConstableKenny](https://twitter.com/ConstableKenny) is a great resource for teachers and parents, keep up-to-date on the latest safety tips and crazy shenanigans of our favorite crime fighting koala.

## FRIENDS OF STRANGER POND



For those who walk around the Pond, you would have noticed more plantings of trees and plants near the barbecue on the north side and the logs on the southern side. These were planted by our keen volunteers, with the approval and encouragement of the ACT Government. Hopefully these will continue to flourish, despite our extended dry period - if anyone would like to water them, please do so, you just need a bucket or two.

Our group is applying for a grant under the Adopt-a-Park scheme so that we can extend our activities and improvements for the Pond. This area is a great natural resource and home to many native animals.

We also monitor the water quality of the Pond as part of Waterwatch, testing once a month. If anyone would like to get involved in this activity, please drop us an email.

A note for dog walkers - recent Government changes mean that the northern area (basically along the Don Dunstan Ave footpath) is an on-leash area, though it is good to keep your doggie under control all around the Pond.

Please feel free to email us at any time at [strangerpond@gmail.com](mailto:strangerpond@gmail.com) to join us, or to offer any comments or suggestions

*Nev*

0408661159



## BICYCLE SECURITY

**ACT Policing is reminding bicycle owners to secure their property and be vigilant following recent bicycle thefts.**



Below are some steps owners can take to limit the chances of their bicycle being stolen and recovery:

- Do not leave a bicycle in areas of high visibility such as storage cages, balconies and hallways.
- Always ensure your bicycle is locked and secure with a chain or bike lock, even if it is locked in a storage cage.
- Never leave your bicycle unsecured and unattended when out in public.
- Record the serial number of your bike, take a photo of it and mark it with a drivers licence number for easy identification.

NOTE - Bonython Neighbourhood Watch has free UV marking pens available to mark your property. There is no clear evidence that an item has been marked unless you look at it under a UV light. These pens can be used to mark all forms of property for identification. If you would like one of these UV pens, please contact Carol: [bonython@nhwact.com.au](mailto:bonython@nhwact.com.au)

## DIY Safety and Security tips

### HOME

- Lock doors and windows even when you are at home
- Put a lock on your letterbox
- Install sensor lights around your home
- Use a key lock for your spare key and register it with the police
- Fit locks on gates
- Install window locks or alarms
- Fit a security screen guard
- Get to know your neighbours



### ONLINE

- Change passwords regularly and don't share them
- Always look for the 'secure' padlock on a website
- Don't open emails that you are not sure of
- Don't release personal information unless you trust the site
- Be aware that legitimate institutions will NOT ask for bank details online
- Report scams

### CHILDREN

- Talk to them about safety and what's going on in their lives
- Encourage them to walk in groups
- Know where they are especially in school holidays
- Use parental controls on devices
- Teach them not to share personal information

### VEHICLE

- Always lock your car
- Don't leave items of value visible
- Secure your number plate with tamper proof screws
- Never leave your garage fob or house keys in your car when parked outside.

### BICYCLE

- Lock it before you leave it when in a public place
- Record your bike's details and take a photo of it
- Secure it around the home when not in use



### PROPERTY

- Identify all items by marking them with your licence number and take photos
- Keep an inventory of all items of value, inside and outside the house

### PERSONAL

- Be aware of who is around you at all times
- Never open your door to strangers
- When outdoors walk in crowded, well lit areas
- Carry a personal alarm and practice using it

**TAKING ACTION TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR PROPERTY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO CRIME IN THE COMMUNITY**





# Bonython Residents' Public Meeting

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 7:30pm**

Bonython Hall - Barr Smith Ave

**Guest Speaker: Bob, President, U3A ACT** (Canberra's University of the Third Age)

Are you over 50 and want to exercise your brain, learn something new or join a discussion group? Then U3A could be for you!

The Third Age may be the best time of your life with more free time to explore, learn and share knowledge. U3A promotes and practices lifelong learning but providing low cost courses for older people.

- ✧ Art workshops
- ✧ Computers and Digital technology
- ✧ English Language and Literature
- ✧ Music
- ✧ History
- ✧ Social and Behavioral Sciences
- ✧ Current Affairs
- ✧ Recreational activities – yoga, Tai Chi etc
- ✧ Languages
- ✧ Philosophy and Religion
- ✧ Science, Health and the Environment



... and many more with over 300 courses available.

U3A works in partnership with University of Canberra but courses are held at a range of venues across the ACT

- **Anyone is welcome to the meeting to find out more about the courses and how to get involved.**
- **Bring a friend and stay for a cuppa.**

## SPRING CLEAN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Now that spring is here and people are venturing out its time to check what is happening outside and around you.

- + Does anything need reporting to Fix My Street such as a broken footpath, dumped shopping trolleys or rubbish, graffiti, dangerous trees, pot holes or sign damage? → [accesscanberra.act.gov.au](http://accesscanberra.act.gov.au)
- + Have you checked that the shrubs and trees in your garden are not overhanging and causing a safety issue on the footpath at your house?

Keeping the area around your house tidy and safe has a good impact on the whole of the community.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	000
Police Attendance	131 444
Crime Stoppers	1800 333 000 (mention Neighbourhood Watch)
SES	13 25 00
Access Canberra	13 22 81 previously Canberra Connect and includes Fix My Street



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Educating and supporting residents to feel safe and secure

## BONYTHON WALKING GROUP

As of Oct 9, when daylight saving commences the walks will commence at 9 am.

If you are interested in a walk around the neighbourhood and get to know some of the locals, meet out the front of the Bonython Hub, Barr Smith Ave. The walks normally last about 45 mins followed by coffee and chat at Cake Lovers for those who can stay after.

For more information contact Rosalie on 6293 9245



## LOCAL BUSINESSES

B NHW encourages all residents to support local businesses

- Tuggeranong Link 6292 1604
- Cake Lovers 6293 9309
- Valley Physiotherapy 6293 3838
- Tim McCreath Fencing 0418 555623
- Matt the Gardener 0404 094095

MARY LEE STREET

## PLACES AND NAMES

Mary Lee was a South Australian Suffragist. Born in Ireland 1844, she married, had seven children, and widowed in 1879 she sailed to Adelaide and became foundation secretary of the Social Purity Society and Working Womens Trades Union, campaigning for improved conditions for women. She was a delegate to the Trades and Labor Council and committee member of the Female Refuge Ladies' Committee as well as the Distressed Women's and Children's Committee.

→ [www.legislation.act.gov.au](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au)